

First Hearts

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My Father Understands

Little Jimmy had just spilled some paint on the back porch. He had tried not to, but he *did!*

“What will your father say?” asked his frightened playmate. “Aw – he’ll understand,” was Jimmy’s confident reply. And little Jimmy was right. His father did “understand” and willingly forgave him.

After all, who understands better than our father or our mother? Who is more ready to forgive us when we fail, or to cover our shortcomings with the mantle of sweet charity?

The father heart remembers the limitations of the child – and in that remembrance is moved to love and pity.

So, too, our *heavenly* Father. The psalmist says: “He hath not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. . . .

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.” (*Psalms 103:10-14*)

He knoweth our frame – that we are so weak, so erring, so sinful. That is why He offers us a salvation that is full and *free*, dependent upon no merit of our own.

In Christ and His atoning work, we have everything that the loving Father heart of God could give: forgiveness of sins today and every day, and eternal life with God in the everlasting mansions.

What peace, what joy, what confidence – to know that in heaven we have *such* a Father, a Father who understands, who knows us by our very names, and who, knowing us, forgives us!

Worship This Month

This month we conclude the season of Epiphany by celebrating the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord, and we begin the season of Lent, as we follow our Lord to the cross. Come worship the Lord and bring a friend! He is most worthy of our praise

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February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany: *Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39.*

February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany: *2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45.*

February 19 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord: *2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9.*

February 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent: *Genesis 22:1-18; James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15.*

SEASON OF LENT – The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 22. It is a 40-day season of repentance and contemplation on the sufferings and death of our Lord. Each Wednesday we will have worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. “Behold the Man” (*John 19:6*) is the theme for our services this Lent. Below is a schedule. Come behold the man Jesus who suffered and died for us!

- Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday – Behold the man of Passion!
- Feb. 29 – Behold the man of Prayer!
- Mar. 7 – Behold the man of Patience!
- Mar. 14 – Behold the man of Punishment!
- Mar. 21 – Behold the man of Perseverance!
- Mar. 28 – Behold the man of Power!

FAREWELL FOR PASTOR ROBERTS AND FAMILY – Pastor Roberts’ final service with us will be February 5. We will have a potluck lunch after worship to thank Pastor and his family and to pray God’s rich blessings upon them at Praise, Maryville. Bring a couple of dishes to share for the meal. We will also thank Ed Niedens at the potluck for his great service to our church. Join us!

Prayer List

OUR PRAYER LIST should include:

Sick or Burdened Members: General: Jim Beck, Don Weaver

Homebound (* = Nursing Home): Edna Clark, Gladys Frankenberg, Maryjane Handzus, Evelyn Haynes, Norma Herron*, Mary Ruth Knaffl*, Jerry Stewart

Serving Our Country: Brett Anthonijs, Matt Bancroft, Byron Hatmaker, Chaplain Sean David Hunze, Adam Smith, Jeff Stone

Other Prayer Requests:

MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Inez Anderson (cancer) | R. C. Richardson (recurring cancer) |
| Glen Baxmann (cancer) | Judy Testerman (cancer) |
| Connie Bowling (cancer) | The Varner family |
| Arnold & Donna Korte | Don & Carolyn Weaver |
| Sharon Mueller | Melody Zimmer |

NON-MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

Jack Anthonijs (Sandy's brother)
 Jason Beach (Margaret Ortstadt's nephew)
 Julie Brummitt (Jim & Rosa Beck's daughter)
 Teresa Capparelli (Ingrid's mother-in-law)
 Julia Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend)
 Bill Dickerson (Penny Wright's father)
 James Flanigan (Eric's brother)
 Anne Hankins (Laura Dudley's mother)
 Madison Haynes (Joy Witt's relative)
 Cindy Krantz (Lynda Graves' friend)
 Joyce Lipscomb (the Elmores' friend)
 Ed Livingston (Richard Haynes' friend with cancer)
 Beryl Lusbay
 Joanne Mattingly
 Phil Moore (Mary Acuff Croes' friend)
 Mark & Karen Nall (Phyllis Nall's son)
 Angela & Evie Ortmeyer (Mary Acuff Croes' relatives)
 Mary Potter (Cathy Price's mother)
 Tom Roberts (Sara's grandfather with Alzheimers)
 Daniel Rule (the Slifka's friend)
 Kara Russell (Art Poisal's friend)
 Jason Rutledge
 Cameron Vecera (5-year old student of Harold Faulkner's daughter)
 Ron Whitten (Dr. Art Poisal's patient with cancer)
 Jim Wolford (Robert's father), mini stroke and seizures
 Margaret Ortstadt's daughter Jann
 R. C. & Delilla Richardson's friend
 Melody Zimmer's nephew's baby (developmental problems)
 Sandy Anthonijs' friend Virginia with a serious eye injury
 Gene Benak (Pastor Fichtelman's father-in-law) (suspected cancer)
 Tom O'Brien (husband of Marissa Wilson's coworker) with prostate cancer)

Youth News and Happenings

YOUTH LOCK-IN for 6th - 12th grades is scheduled for Friday, February 3, at 9:00 p.m. to Saturday, February 4, at 8:00 a.m. All youth are invited for a night of fun, fellowship and learning. "Breaking Free" is our theme.

2012 MID-WINTER YOUTH GATHERING at Pigeon Forge on Friday, February 24-Sunday, February 26. All 9th-12th graders are invited. Please let Pastor Bushur or Shellia Byrd know if you

are interested. Many Lutheran youth around our area will be attending.

Other News and Happenings

YOUR IRS TAX RECEIPTS have been placed in your mailboxes. Please let the church secretary know by March 15 if you need any changes made.

NEEDED – All church members are invited to be Greeters prior to Sunday morning services. Greeters serve the Lord by simply standing at the entrance to the Sanctuary and welcoming church members and visitors with a smile and a cheery "hello." Interested? Please contact Marilyn Wing at 938-4532 or email signal700@frontiernet.net, or let the church secretary know at 524-0366 or email at office@firstknoxville.org.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8.

55 ALIVE – On Thursday, February 9 at 12:00 noon, a luncheon will be served. We will then hear "Thoughts from the HEART of Pastor Roberts." Pastor Roberts has served First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, of the Knoxville Circuit of the Mid-South District of the LCMS since 2006 and recently accepted a call to Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville. Looking forward to seeing you there for this special time of sharing!

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9.

THE NEXT MISSION SERVE for First Lutheran is on Saturday, February 11.

THE DAY SCHOOL BOARD will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13.

ELDERS MEETING is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13.

DR. RICHARD W. BIMLER will be a speaker at Christ our Savior Lutheran Church in Loudon on Saturday, February 18. He is being sponsored by the Endowment Board. His talk will be "Celebrating God's Gift of Aging." He has served the Church in various positions throughout his 48-year ministry career, and is presently serving part-time as Senior Staff Associate for Wheat Ridge Ministries, as well as serving as the Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging for Lutheran Life Communities, Arlington Heights, Illinois. He continues to write, speak, and consult with other agencies and organizations throughout the world. The purpose of this meeting will be to prepare all attendees for the joys of aging, including the benefits of laughter, forgiveness and support, and financial planning. We hope to reach out to persons reaching retirement and those who serve seniors. We will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 and a box lunch is included. Please call (865) 458-0407 for reservations.

FOSTER PARENTING – There are many children in East Tennessee without safe, secure places to call home. The Florence Crittenton Agency wants to partner with families willing to provide a loving home for these children. You have the opportunity to truly touch a life and change it for the better through foster parenting. You can give a young person a chance at success through a healthy, nurturing home environment. The need is great, and Florence Crittenton trains and works closely with qualified foster families throughout East Tennessee. Our foster parents understand the challenges of fostering, and are committed to providing a nurturing environment that supports the long-term success of the young people we serve. If interesting in becoming a foster parent, please contact Karen Partridge at (865) 602-2974 or www.Karen.partridge@caknox.org, or for more information please visit www.fcaknox.org.

FELLOWSHIP FOOD – Each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. doughnuts, rolls, fruit, etc. are provided. If you would like to provide the food on a Sunday, please sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you!

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS have a need for additional ringers. Both the First Bells and the Lutheran Ringers have openings. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to serve your Lord and add beauty to the worship service. After the New Year is the perfect time for you to step forward. Please let me encourage you to take this invitation seriously.

DO YOU HAVE a "quiet time" with the Lord each day? Consider a daily devotion as part of that quiet time. To join the "First Devotions," just go to sherrilhunze@gmail.com and join. We are currently hearing from faithful missionaries – their faith stories are remarkable!

PICTURE CARDS TO HAND OUT – Thanks to First Lutheran Elder Wayne Poore, our church now has 2500 business-sized picture cards that you can take with you and hand out to friends or drop in a waiting room to let others know about where you go to church. It features a beautiful photo of both our exterior (by Wayne Poore) and our Sanctuary (by Lisa Wade Photography). Please take as many as you need. Extras are available in the Narthex in the bottom of the literature stand or see Pastor Roberts for help in finding them.

HELP CLEAN THE CHURCH – Several of our members clean our sanctuary weekly. We thank the Lord for their service! If you would like to help clean our church, please let Pastor Bushur or Pastor Roberts know. Thank you!

ELECTRONIC GIVING (JOYFUL RESPONSE) is a convenient way to automate your regular weekly offering and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Joyful Response is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office or from our website (see Electronic Giving section under Membership at www.firstknoxville.org).

LARGE PRINT READINGS – Each Sunday the Bible readings are available in large print in the back of the church. Please ask an usher for help.

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

- 2 – Open House / Kindergarten Round-Up
- 9 – Classroom pictures and Sports pictures (pre-paid orders)
- 10 – NO UNIDaY! Theme: Polka dots or stripes...yipes!
- 12 – Kindergarten / 1st Grade Choir sings at FLC
- 20 – ALL FACILITIES CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 23-25 – Basketball tournament in New Orleans

SPELLING BEE – FLS held its annual spelling bee on January 18. Yves Paultre was the first place winner and will represent our school in the Knox County Spelling Bee. His sister Celeste came in 2nd place, and his other sister Lisette was our 3rd place winner! Congratulations to all students who participated!

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND OPEN ENROLLMENT NIGHT – Thursday, Feb. 2 from 6:30-8 p.m., with a Kindergarten Roundup session from 7:00-7:30. Come visit this year's and next year's classrooms, and stop in the cafeteria for enrollment forms and snacks.

We're approaching that time of year for recruiting new students at First Lutheran School, and the best advertising for FLS is YOU telling your friends, colleagues, and neighbors about our wonderful school. Invite them to visit FLS and see for themselves why we're the best-kept secret in Knoxville! Here are some easy ways to spread the word about our quality Christian education:

- * Mention First Lutheran School when you're talking to coworkers or to other parents at kids' birthday parties, sports events, etc.
- * Send an email to friends and family or share on Facebook our open house details to friends and family
- * Invite neighbors, friends, church friends, and anyone you know who is considering a new school to visit FLS.
- * Refer interested people to our website—it's easy to remember! www.firstlutheranschool.com.

Other ways to promote FLS:

Put up FLS posters around your area of town (public buildings, coffee shops, UT campus, your church, etc.). Pick up posters in the school office.

* Get your car magnets (just \$5 each in the school office) and become a moving FLS billboard. Show your school spirit around town!

First Lutheran School is a ministry of First Lutheran Church. When we have a full school, tuition costs stay as low as possible, students and teachers are nurtured, and we can continually make improvements in the programs and buildings. Thanks so much for your help and support.

Gretchen Roberts, FLS Marketing Chair

Birthdays and Anniversaries**BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 – Luke Buckner, Jason Gibson
- 3 – Audrey Miller, Mike Sanders, Denver Slifka, Brittany Tipton
- 5 – Dave Wheat
- 7 – Dawn Johnson
- 9 – Kari Williamson
- 10 – Kara Eimmerman
- 12 – John Lelle
- 13 – Morgan Lyke
- 14 – Nathan Parker, Katie Wells
- 15 – Isaac Parker
- 18 – Ed Bagley
- 20 – Jim Beck
- 21 – Kira Lelle
- 22 – Amanda Parker
- 23 – Julie Cloninger
- 25 – Katherine Miller
- 27 – Lindsey Blair
- 28 – Erin Rodgers

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 – Dennis & Sherrie Gartrell
- 14 – Rudy & Emma Kepka
- 16 – Larry & Kim Mabe

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Paul J. Bushur, Pastor; Ceci Steele, Editor. Worship Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes are held on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
1207 Broadway NE,
Knoxville, TN 37917
(865) 524-0366

e-mail: office@firstknoxville.org

